

LIMEHURST
Rural District Council.



MEDICAL
OFFICER'S
INTERIM REPORT
1944.



Limehurst Rural District Council

1944-45.



Members of the Council:		Parish.
Councillor	E. COLLINGE, J.P., Chairman	Bardsley.
„	J. COOPER, J.P., Vice-Chairman	Woodhouses.
„	S. HOWARD, J.P.,	Waterloo.
„	T. OLLERENSHAW	Waterloo.
„	F. CLOUGH	Alt.
„	J. J. CRESSWELL	Littlemoss.

Officials:

E. H. RATCLIFFE,	H.C.A.	Clerk to the Council.
H. BOARDMAN,	M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health.
W. DAWSON,	M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.	Sanitary Inspector.
A. FISHER,	M.INST., M. AND CY.E., (Joined H.M. Forces, April, 1943)	Surveyor.
S. DENNIS,	A.I.A.S.	Acting Surveyor.
A. HOWSON,	A.R.V.A.	Rating Officer.
H. E. TURNER,	F.S.I.	Valuation Officer (part time).

Public Health Staff:

Medical Officer of Health.
Sanitary Inspector.

INTERIM REPORT

Council Offices,

200, Oldham Road, Waterloo,

Nr. Ashton-under-Lyne,

September, 1945.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS.

of the

Limehurst Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health I have the honour to submit for your consideration an Interim Report on the health of the district during the year ending 31st December, 1944.

I should like to offer my sincere thanks to the ladies who have attended the Child Welfare Centre and have voluntarily tendered such valuable assistance each week.

My predecessor, Dr. Boardman, was Medical Officer of Health during the whole of the year under review and the statistics and information forming this Report have been prepared from records made during his term of office.

To the Members of the Council and the Officials I tender my thanks for their assistance and co-operation.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

B. BOWMAN.

Temporary Medical Officer of Health.

AREA, POPULATION, AND RATEABLE VALUE.

PARISH	AREAS IN ACRES	No. of Inhabited Houses	Rateable Value £	Product 1d. Rate £
Alt	1,132·724	270	3,279	12
Bardsley	883·076	545	7,165	27
Littlemoss ...	703·802	204	3,000	11
Waterloo	341·139	1,233	14,710	56
Woodhouses...	627·545	233	2,644	8
Totals...	3,688·286	2,485	30,798	114

Population at 1931 Census (excluding Hartshead) ... 8,151

Population 1944 7,233

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Generally the number of notifiable diseases was again small though an increase in the incidence of measles was noted. The number of cases of diphtheria was five, none of which proved fatal. No notifications of cerebro spinal fever were received during the year.

Six cases of scarlet fever, five of diphtheria and one case for observation were admitted to hospital as follows:—

Oldham (Westhulme) all 12 cases.

Ambulance facilities in each case were provided by the Hospital admitting the patient.

There has been no change from previous years with regard to Hospital accommodation and ambulance facilities for both infectious and non-infectious cases.

With regard to non-infectious cases, Oldham Ambulance serves four parishes and Ashton-under-Lyne Ambulance, one parish.

This arrangement provides an adequate Ambulance Service for the whole District.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR, 1944.
Notified cases only included.

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases at all ages	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED YEARS											Total Deaths (the figures in this column agree with those supplied by the Registrar General).	Hospital. — Total Cases removed to Hospital from the District.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to District.	
		Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65				65 and over
Smallpox	15	—	—	—	—	—	7	3	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup	5	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Primary Pneumonia	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Polio-Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis-Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	73	3	10	6	16	14	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	10	1	1	2	1	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Notifiable diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	108	4	11	8	17	15	40	4	2	4	1	1	1	3	11	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

YEARS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1								
1—5								
5—10								
10—15								
15—20	1							
20—25		2	1		1			
25—35			1	1		1		1
35—45	3	1						
45—55								
55—65	1							
65 and over								
	5	3	2	1	1	1	0	1
	8		3		2		1	

Proper notification, prior to death, was received in each case of death from tuberculosis.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The Scheme for immunisation against diphtheria has been in operation throughout the year.

Sessions have been held regularly at the Immunisation Clinic during the year, and a total of 59 children have been immunised. The Clinic is held at the Methodist School, Oldham Road, Waterloo.

Details are as follows:

No. of children immunised
during year.

(a) Pre-school children - 49

(b) Schoolchildren - 10

Prophylactics used.
A.P.T.

{ 7-A.P.T.
3-T.A.F.

Since the scheme commenced in January, 1941, a total of 737 children have been immunised. 191 children immunised are in the pre-school age group and 546 are school-children. Expressed as percentages, 34% of the children under 5 years and 52% of the children aged between 5 and 15 have been immunised. The aim is to reach 75% in each age group, so every effort to obtain an increased response is being made.

SCHOOL CLINICS.

There are no school clinics in the district but facilities are available for school children at the County Clinic, Post Office Buildings, Royton. Detailed plans for the erection of a School Clinic in the Rural District were well advanced but had to be postponed owing to the war.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

A welfare centre administered by the Lancashire County Council at the Methodist School, Oldham Road, Waterloo, is now held every Thursday afternoon.

MIDWIVES' ACT, 1936.

The midwife allocated to the Rural District is Mrs. A. Harrop, S.C.M., S.R.N., residing at 5, Ney Street, Waterloo. Tel. ASH. 2033.

SEWERAGE.

No further progress with regard to the sewerage of the three unsewered parishes has been made. It appears unlikely that any of the recommendations of the Consulting Engineer can be put into effect during the war.

BYE-LAWS.

Building Bye-laws under the Public Health Act, 1936, are in force in the District.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING.

The Council is a Constituent Authority of the Oldham and District Statutory Regional Planning Committee.

Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

1. Inspections, for the purposes of provisions as to health, including inspection made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspectiona (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions (4)
Factories with mechanical power	28	3	—
Factories (without mechanical power	9	—	—
Other premises under the Act ... (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises) ...	—	—	—
Total	37	3	—

2. Defects Found.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)—				
insufficient	1	1	—	—
unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—
not separate for sexes... ..	—	—	—	—
Other offences	2	2	—	—
Not including offences relating to home work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule of the Factories Act. 1937.)				
Total	5	5	—	—

No returns in Outworkers' Section.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE LIMEHURST RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting for your consideration my Annual Report on sanitary conditions in the area and progress made during the year.

The shortages of building trade materials and labour have made extensive repair or reconstruction work out of the question. Every attention has been given to urgent defects and nuisances.

Milk production in the district has maintained a reasonably good standard with regard to cleanliness and keeping quality.

There has been no difficulty with regard to the quality of meat and other foods consumed in the district.

The delegation of powers under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919, and the active interest of the Ministry of Food in this matter lead to a successful campaign in the destruction of rats.

I would like to express my thanks to all Members and Officials of the Council for their continued help and valuable assistance.

I am, Gentlemen, Your obedient servant,

W. DAWSON, Sanitary Inspector.

Notices Served—Nuisance and Sanitary Defects.

No. of Informal Notices served during 1944 (concerning 138 houses)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
No. of same complied with during 1944 (concerning 116 houses)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
Note.—A number of Notices in the form of letters were delivered in addition to the above.								
No. of Statutory Notices served (for 3 houses)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
No. of Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
No. of Legal Proceedings authorised	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of Legal Proceedings taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Two of the Statutory Notices were served in respect of nuisances and one for sanitary defects.

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

Total number of notifiable diseases recorded during the
year 108

A tabulated statement is given on pages 5 and 6.

Number of premises disinfected (houses) 26

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The Council now undertake the Scavenging of all parishes within the Rural District, Alt being added in 1940. Since scavenging is a service fundamental in character and an absolute necessity to a healthy environment, every effort has been made to maintain an adequate service. The standard and regularity of collection has been reasonably satisfactory despite the many present day difficulties.

The Council's scheme to purchase dustbins and pails, in quantities for re-sale to owners and occupiers in the district, necessitated by the absence of such articles in the ordinary trade channels, has been continued throughout the year. The demand has always been greater than the supply but it has been possible, by careful selection, to supply those in greatest need first. The scheme commenced in 1941 and since that date 209 dustbins and 115 pails have been supplied.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, DRAINAGE, &c.

A tabulated statement follows of the totals of the various sanitary conveniences in the five parishes. During the year the following conversions have been carried out.

- 1 Privy midden converted to a water closet.
- 3 Privy cesspit closets abolished, 4 pail closets provided.
- 1 Waste water closet converted to a water closet.
- 5 Additional water closets provided.
- 8 Dustbins provided in lieu of ashpits, etc.

The following is a list of recorded improvements, renewals, &c.

10 Entirely new Dustbins provided.

48 Dustbins renewed.

3 Privy Closets abolished.

2 Dry Ashpits and ground pits abolished.

34 Closet Pails provided, including renewals and conversions.

10 Premises where water closets were repaired.

5 Premises where drains were entirely reconstructed.

2 Premises where new branch drains were laid.

7 Premises (other than the above) where existing drains were repaired.

41 Drain blockages cleared.

The closet accommodation for 1,914 houses is on the water carriage system.

The number of dustbins now to be emptied in the whole district is 2,188 as against 171 in 1922.

Virtually all the 587 pail closets and the 29 privy closets are remote from the public sewer and the question of converting these to water closets is bound up with the larger problem of the provision of sewers and sewerage facilities to the unsewered parts of the district.

There are 502 waste water closets in the district. It is generally agreed that this type of convenience should be abolished at the first opportunity and replaced by fresh water closets. No important technical problem is involved in this matter, the only real difficulty is one of finance.

There should be no difficulty in abolishing the 102 ashpits after the war when supplies of dustbins are readily available.

TABULATED RECORD OF SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AT THE END OF 1944.

PARISH	Water Closets	Waste Water Closets	Pail Closets	Galv'd Bins	Middens	Closets	Cesspits	Closets	Ashpits	Tubs, Boxes, etc.
Alt ...	79	22	196	221	6	11	7	6	1	1
Bardsley ...	380	203	28	462	3	4	1	1	22	4
Littlemoss ...	121	10	127	185	2	2	2	3	8	0
Waterloo ...	1052	266	3	1096	—	—	—	—	71	6
Woodhouses	30	1	233	224	1	1	1	1	0	4
Totals ...	1662	502	587	2188	12	18	11	11	102	15

SLAUGHTERHOUSES, MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

No public slaughterhouse is established in the district. There are four private slaughterhouses, one in Bardsley and three in Waterloo.

In January, 1940, private slaughtering ceased, all slaughtering being subject to Government control from this date. No Government slaughterhouse was established in Limehurst.

A constant watch is kept on foodstuffs, including meat, coming into the shops in the district.

During the year 13 inspections have been made at slaughterhouses where permits have been given for slaughtering to take place.

The following foodstuffs have been condemned as unfit for human consumption and have been dealt with as directed by the Government.

13 Tins of foodstuffs.

3 Instances—pig's offal.

Places where foodstuffs are prepared, sold or stored are subject to regular inspection. It has not been necessary to institute any legal proceedings.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

There are 64 dairy farms in the District in the occupation of 62 cowkeepers all of whom are on the register. The total number of cows kept is 1,420.

In addition to the 62 cowkeepers who are also dairymen with registered dairy premises, there are seven resident dairy men and retail purveyors of milk with registered premises. These are not cowkeepers but buy milk in bulk and retail in the district.

Finally, there are 55 firms and persons registered as dairymen and retail purveyors who have no dairy premises in the Rural District.

Fees for the sale of Pasteurised Milk have been paid by three dairy firms this year.

Seven resident dairymen and cowkeepers are licensed by the Lancashire County Council as producers of "Accredited Milk." Three of these producers are also licenced for bottling.

Altogether 103 samples of milk have been taken. These include a number taken on the request of the Lancashire County Council. 46 samples were taken for examination for tubercle bacillus; 56 for the Methylene Blue test and for the presence of B. Coli; 1 for the Sediment test. Results were as follows:

Tubercle Bacillus.

Samples submitted for the biological test.

No. Submitted.	No. Negative.	No. Positive.
46	40	6

Methylene Blue and B. Coli test.

No. Submitted.	No. Satisfactory.	No. Unsatisfactory.
56	42	14

Note.—The standard adopted in classification of the above was the "Accredited" standard.

Sediment Tests.

No. of Tests.	No. Satisfactory.	No. Unsatisfactory.
1	1	0

During the year eight instances of tuberculous milk have been dealt with by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries following positive samples taken by the Health Authorities.

There has been no diminution of the problems in connection with the production of a clean milk supply, the demands of the war still have first place and other requirements, however important in themselves, must perforce take a second place. In spite of this the standard maintained in the district has been reasonably good and it will be noted that 75% of the samples taken attained the standard required by the holder of an Accredited licence.

A large number of inspections have been made at milk producing farms in order to keep a close check on methods of milk production.

Structural improvements were undertaken at eight farms, in most cases substantial in character. These include one new 14-cow shippin; two new dairies; one dairy extension for a sterilising room; three new sterilisers; reconstruction of six shippins (housing 41 cows); two farms entirely redrained; town's water laid on to one farm.

HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE.

The total number of dwelling houses in the District at the end of 1944 is 2,485, mostly of the working class type.

No new houses have been erected during the year.

Repairs have been recorded at existing houses in 151 instances in 1944. This figure does not include sanitary repairs or improvements which are listed on an earlier page.

During the year the Council have given much attention to the problems created by the absence of any new building in the last five years and the consequent shortage of houses in the district. Concurrently with an effort to gauge the actual extent of the housing need there has been commenced the preparatory work required before any housing estate can be built. The object was to prepare a scheme for the first two years following the end of the war, so that work could be started as soon as conditions permitted.

The absence of the usual repair and maintenance work to houses over a period of years is now showing only too plainly. This type of work should receive very early attention on the cessation of hostilities to prevent further inroads into the fabric of the structures.

The work being carried out at present is, in the main, that necessary to maintain a fairly good standard of hygiene and comfort. All serious defects reported during the year have been dealt with.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Action has been necessary in two instances. In one case steam disinfection of bedding and treatment of the room with "Zaldecide" was used, and in the other, the use of S.O.₂ on three successive week-ends was the method employed. Both were successful.

OVERCROWDING.

Only by a re-survey could the exact position be correctly ascertained, but it is not thought that much gross overcrowding exists. An important matter is the number of young couples who have married during the war and now live at one or other of the parent's houses. This problem can only be solved by new building.

One case of overcrowding has been officially dealt with during the year following service of statutory notice.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Thirty-one visits have been made to shops in the district. No action was necessary with regard to Offices.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council applied for, and were granted delegated powers under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919. These powers became operative on the 3rd February.

Your Sanitary Inspector received special training in the administration and organisation of this work and one of your workmen was specially trained as a rodent operative.

All the sewer manholes in Waterloo and Bardsley received the treatment recommended by the Ministry of Food for the elimination of rats. Altogether, at different periods of May, June, July and August 153 manholes were dealt with averaging about 8 treatments each. The number of manhole covers lifted and replaced was 1,200. Bardsley Sewage Works was given special attention and several private premises in the district were dealt with at the occupier's expense. The rat population of the district was very considerably reduced.

